

IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT L.
DUVALL III

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bob Duvall for his contributions to technology advancements in the defense industry. As an expert engineer with Hughes Aircraft and as Vice President of Advanced Technology at DRS Technologies, Mr. Duvall made a lasting impact on defense technology and military members. Bob passed away on May 24, 2006. He was 61.

Bob Duvall was born in Cheverly, Maryland on October 8, 1944 and grew up in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, DC. His father was an electrical engineer for the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, and he inspired Bob in his career as an engineer. In 1967, Mr. Duvall graduated from Cornell University with a degree in electrical engineering and subsequently went to work with Hughes Aircraft Company in California, where his technical expertise expanded to include circuit design, optics, infrared technology, optoelectronics and systems integration. Bob furthered his education with a master's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Southern California in 1975.

Bob's early contributions and developments during his more than 20 years with Hughes Aircraft led to innovation in Naval and Air Force laser pointing and tracking technology that today is considered a step forward to a high energy laser system for ballistic missile defense systems.

Following the first gulf war, our military leaders recognized Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) as a key combat overmatch capability for our mounted and dismounted troops. In response, Bob Duvall was the lead for Hughes Aircraft in partnership with Texas Instruments to develop this next generation of night vision systems using thermal sensors. The Army's Second Generation FLIR involves the insertion of a common second-generation thermal sensor, known as the B-Kit into the Army's highest priority ground-based platforms.

These systems have played an important role in our efforts to fight the Global War on Terrorism. Because of Mr. Duvall, these systems have been fielded with the capability to see when the enemy can not and to fight during conditions that are obscured by weather or time of day. Our troops now enter into battle with the decisive ability to "Own the Night" and precisely target and defeat the threat. Because of his efforts and expertise, Mr. Duvall contributed directly to saving many lives and avoiding great loss.

Bob Duvall was unequalled not only as an Engineer, but as a friend—full of good humor, a wonderful storyteller with an infectious laugh, a patient listener, and a willing contributor to others in need. Bob Duvall's family was his greatest joy and he is survived by his wife Shirley and his two children, Mark and Michelle. He will be sorely missed by his loved ones, his colleagues, and others who benefited from his contribution.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH D. PETERS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to the late Joseph D. Peters, a sports pioneer who demonstrated leadership and commitment to extending the reach of sports as a positive force for social change. Peters was born on June 2, 1938 in Wilmington, Delaware and he passed away on January 9, 2006 at his home in New York City.

His commitment to service began in 1962 when he joined the United States armed forces. He was a former director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Sports Project. As director he was responsible for many projects including The International Freedom Games track and field meet and the Martin Luther King All-Star basketball classic.

Peters was inspired by the legendary baseball great Jackie Robinson, who in 1947 broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball. This inspiration was very much reflected in his philosophy on sports. He viewed sports as much more than athletic competition; sports had a deeper purpose and he dedicated his life to making people realize that. He strongly believed that sports were capable of bringing people together and bridging the gaps that divided nations. He also knew how influential sports could be on the home front as well.

Sports have provided economic opportunities and hopes for many disadvantaged but athletically gifted young people. For athletic competition whether as amateurs or professionals has provided a way to move forward when all else around may have seemed to be standing still.

Peters was diagnosed with stomach cancer after the disaster of Hurricane Katrina, yet he continued working to organize a special benefit basketball game in which the Argentine and French Olympic gold and silver medal winners would challenge NBA stars for the benefit of the victims. This was another extension of his sports philosophy.

Peters also attempted to organize a U.S.-Cuban baseball game aimed at bringing the two countries together by engaging in an activity common to both countries. He knew the influence and power that such an event would have on people. We need to continue to believe in his philosophy because it is important to see what further impacts sports can have on our world.

Peters' ambitious initiatives were not always successful, but neither his passion or his resolve ever faded. His dedication was an inspiration not only to athletes but to many others in our community who are seeking ways to make a contribution.

MOUNT ZION AFRICAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF NORRISTOWN,
PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal

Church of Norristown, Pennsylvania for its 176th anniversary celebration.

The first gathering of this congregation was held in 1830 in a small building on the corner of Airy and Walnut Streets. Under the influence of Richard Allen, the Founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, more and more individuals began to become members. However, the members had to meet in local homes and businesses and were not officially recognized as a church body until 1832.

In 1832, the congregation officially organized and adopted the name Mount Zion, a name derived from highest point in the City of Jerusalem. A more modern interpretation of the name refers to one's "spiritual homeland" or "safe haven". The name Mount Zion appropriately applies to the congregation because many of its earliest members from 1832 to 1845 fled to Canada to escape slavery and oppression. A large majority of the original members returned in 1845 with great determination and courage to acquire and build their very own spiritual safe haven. Adversity seemed to later follow the congregation and the Church lost many of its buildings, funds, and records through a series of improper transactions.

However, the congregation never lost faith and one member, Mother Caroline Lewis, supplied the funds necessary to secure the Basin Street Church property. On May 20, 1867, the Church was granted its charter under the name Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church of Norristown.

The Church has provided the Borough of Norristown outstanding spiritual, communal, and political leadership ever since. The Church was often used as a school, safe house, and shelter and it moved current location in 1915.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church, Norristown, Pennsylvania on its 176 years of history, heritage, and community leadership.

HONORING EXCEPTIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, last year I had the opportunity to honor Brentwood High and Franklin High as two of our Nation's top schools.

I am proud to say these schools have once again been recognized by Newsweek Magazine for excellence in education. This year Centennial High School in the Seventh District has also been added to the exclusive list.

I want to take a moment to applaud the hard work and dedication it has taken for these schools to achieve such excellence. It's a real team effort and the students, parents, teachers and staff who've dedicated their energy to this success all deserve recognition.

I want to make specific mention of our principals and thank them for their leadership. Brentwood High Principal Kevin Keidel, Centennial High Principal Terry Shrader and Franklin High Principal Willie Dickerson have earned our respect and our thanks, and I hope they'll continue inspiring our kids to work hard and make the most of their education.